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Cuba Announces Arrival of Units Of 22-Nation 'Volunteer' Brigade

From News Dispatches

HAVANA, Oct. 25 — The first units of a 22-nation "international combat brigade" are in Cuba to fight any U. S. invasion, the government newspaper Revolucion said today.

More "volunteers" can be

expected later, Revolucion said.

The 22 nations were listed as: Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, British Guiana, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, East Germany, the Dominican Republic, Senegal, the Soviet Union, South Africa, Venezuela and North Viet-Nam.

Revolucion quoted a spokesman for the brigade as saying: "We will carry out whatever task on any ground deemed necessary with maximum combativeness and without sparing any sacrifice."

Cuba was described as completely mobilized today. Army regulars, militiamen and students stood guard in wind and rain for an invasion they say will surely come.

Most units were reported on standby along the 2500-mile coast lines.

Calls went out to factory workers to redouble their efforts. The Federation of Cuban Women, headed by the wife of Fidel Castro's brother Raul, asked members to donate blood.

Landing restrictions imposed two days ago on all aircraft were lifted, but military approval still was required. Cubana Airlines announced

there will be a flight to Mexico City Friday.

Informants said the Interior Trade Ministry was considering restricting sales of such nonrationed items as coffee, bread and crackers.

Havana newspapers today headlined Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's letter to British philosopher Bertrand Russell, emphasizing his promise to defend Russia's rights on the high seas, and playing down his call for a summit talk, and promising he would take no "rash" action. However, the text of the letter also was printed.

Secondary front-page play went to the proposal of United Nations Acting Secretary General U Thant for a moratorium on any action. His call to Cuba to halt construction on its missile bases during the two or three-week "cooling-off period" was mentioned only fleetingly in textual excerpts.

The Communist newspaper Hoy took Latin American nations to task for supporting the U. S. blockade.

"All the continent becomes an immense prison," it said. "Abjection becomes a government norm."

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EVALUATION OF PRESS REPORT ON FOREIGN TECHNICIANS FORMING MILITIA UNIT

It was reported by Havana that nationals of 22 foreign countries who now reside in Cuba had joined together to form a militia unit which would be placed at the disposition of Cuban leaders for any task which might be assigned to it. We have no reason to doubt the authenticity of the report, but we consider that it was meant primarily as a gesture to demonstrate ~~the~~ great "solidarity" with the ideals of the Castro regime. Such a unit would be more valuable to the regime as a showpiece and an inspiration to other Cubans than it would be as a combat unit. It could well be composed of nationals of nearly every other Latin American country who are known to reside in Cuba, and it could also include Algerians, Africans, Americans, ^(Spaniards) and nationals of Sino-Soviet bloc countries.

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